

President Clinton had the chance to reform Medicare, he chose his veto pen and MediScare, scaring seniors over our seniors' health care security. The President is ignoring Medicare's impending bankruptcy, something our seniors cannot afford.

#### RAISING MINIMUM WAGE A MORAL ISSUE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this House just do not get it. The American people want an increase in the minimum wage. They know, Mr. Speaker, even if you do not, that raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do.

This is not just an economic issue, this is a moral issue. Mr. Speaker, you have the capacity, you have the ability, to bring a clean minimum wage bill to this floor. Do not fight, Mr. Speaker, what is right; do not fight what is right.

On this issue there is a national bipartisan consensus. Let us do what the American people want us to do. Let us do what is right. Let us raise the minimum wage. Struggling, hardworking people deserve the right to earn a livable income. Raise the minimum wage. Raise it now.

#### MISAPPLICATION OF THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

(Ms. PRYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with just one illustration of the absolute tragedy and heartbreak being experienced right now by countless children and their families due to the misapplication of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA.

A couple from my district in Columbus, OH, adopted twin girls. Both biological parents consented and even chose this family that they wanted the girls to be placed with. After 6 months, as they went on to finalize the adoption, they found out that it was being contested under ICWA, which gives the tribe the final say in custody proceedings involving Indian children.

Although only one of the twins great-great-grandparents was native American, a judge in California ruled that that was enough to trigger ICWA.

These stories are commonplace and have to end. As a result of this misapplication of the law, two little girls almost 3 years old now still await the permanence and stability of the only family they have ever known, and they fear what fate might await them at the hands of the court.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Adoption Stability Act of 1996.

#### TIME TO VOTE ON A CLEAN MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have heard this morning, and I am glad, that after a year of threatening cuts in education funding, I am glad that the Congress and the President yesterday and today will consummate it and restore the drastic and extreme education cuts that they have been fighting a year over, and I am glad the Republican majority saw the light.

□ 1115

But, really, what I want to talk about today is the minimum wage. Americans strongly support an increase in the minimum wage. In fact, the latest national poll shows at least 80 percent of Americans support an increase in the minimum wage, and yet the majority of the Republicans oppose an increase, and some even oppose the minimum wage.

In fact, yesterday the House Republican leaders decided not to even bring up a minimum wage increase for a vote. The only thing we have heard of is a measure to provide another Government subsidy for people who work at \$4.25 an hour. More welfare instead of someone being able to work their way off of welfare. That is not what the American people want.

Republicans talk a lot about moving people off of welfare and into work, but people need a livable wage to do this. Members can talk the talk, but they need to walk the walk. American families are working harder than ever, but it is tough to get ahead when working full time does not put enough money in your opinion pocket to put food on the table.

#### HONORING ROSHA BOOKER OF ROME, GA

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents from Rome, GA, Ms. Rosha Booker, as an example to this Congress and to the country that one person can make a difference. Rosha's commitment to her community, and especially to its children, has established her as a leader and a doer.

Rosha had few of the benefits many of us enjoy, such as a fine education. But she did not let personal adversity hold her back. She got her GED and she got involved.

As president of her residents association, she has taken the lead in attacking drug abuse; and initiated countless activities for young people, from constructive and motivational programs, to workshops designed to give children alternatives to drugs and violence.

Last year Rosha came up with Make a Difference Day. She organized a community yard sale and a fall fair, bringing together residents of her community, tenants association, and local police to stress public safety and the importance of respect for law enforcement.

USA Weekend Magazine has just recognized Rosha in its Sunday magazine as one of the Nation's leading volunteers working for a better America. USA weekend chose wisely.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3024 AND H.R. 1972

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3024 and H.R. 1972.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### WOMEN MAKE UP 59 PERCENT OF MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to make it perfectly clear, I am very glad we finally won the victory, with the help of the President, and the Democratic caucus, to restore cuts in education, to restore the 100,000 police. Today we will vote on a good appropriations bill. We are working for America.

But what we really need to talk about is not the blame game regarding the minimum wage, we really need to talk about the pain in America. A few things we should consider in the argument to raise the minimum wage are that women are the ones that make up 59 percent of the minimum wage earners and nearly three-quarters of them are adults. Further, on average, women are still paid only 72 cents for every \$1 men earn, and after inflation the value of the minimum wage is now 29 percent lower than it was in 1979.

If we do the right thing and the fair thing and raise the minimum wage, just by 90 cents, from \$4.25 to \$5.15 an hour, that alone would lift an estimated 300,000 people out of poverty, including 100,000 children.

Let us not play jokes on the American people. Raise the minimum wage for America and for its working people.

#### LET TAXPAYERS SEE WHAT GOVERNMENT REALLY COSTS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in 1943 Congress passed the withholding tax